

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 11-13, 21 and 25-30 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 29-30 are added; and no claims are amended or canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 9, 11, 12-13, 21 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2001-182872 to Yukinobu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,188 to Besche and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,973,440 to Tamura.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach, suggest or render obvious the claimed features of a bellows composed of a thin metal and having troughs and ridges, a buffer material covering the outer face of the bellows, a fiber braid reinforcement covering the bellows with gaps in the fiber braid reinforcement impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition, as recited in Claim 9.

However, the applied art of Yukinobu merely discusses that an unvulcanized rubber layer is twisted around the outer layer of the reinforcement. As acknowledged in the Office Action, there is no teaching or suggestion in Yukinobu for gaps in the fiber impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition. The Office Action asserts that Tamura teaches these claimed features and it would have been obvious to modify Yukinobu with Tamura.

Applicants disagree. In particular, Tamura relates to a fiber-reinforced thermosetting resin molding for hot pressing injecting. In Fig. 1, a liquid resin 2 is extruded through supply terminals 1a and 1b of resin supply units 13a and 13b onto spreading rollers 3a and 3b. The resin composition 2 is projected in the form of particles onto filmy objects 4a and 4b being conveyed by a conveying unit 14. Glass fibers are supplied from a fiber supply unit 16 and are allowed to mix with the resin composition. The resultant mixture is deposited on the

plastic films 4a and 4b and advanced to a conveyor unit 14 comprising rollers 7 and 7 and a belt 8, and further transferred to an impregnating and deaerating unit 15 comprising impregnating and deaerating rollers 9 and belts 10. The fiber-reinforced molding material of thermosetting resin 11 resulting from the mixture is formed in the shape of sheet. The resin molding in Tamura is reinforced by scattering short sized cut fibers in resin.

In contrast, one or more exemplary embodiments of the present invention relate to a vibration-absorbing tube having a fiber braid reinforcement. The vibration-absorbing tube of the present invention provides superior vibration absorbency, whip resistance and pressure resistance shown by the present specification and Table I. But resin molding for hot pressing injecting as in Tamura, is only required for the strength resin mold itself, as shown in Table I in the specification of Tamura. Again, Claim 9 recites in part, that gaps in the fiber reinforcement are impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition. Yukinobu includes a metallic pipe 1, elastic layer 2, reinforcing layer 3 and an outer surface layer 4. There is no suggestion for including the teachings of Tamura with the device of Yukinobu. Besche does not make up for the deficiencies of the applied art discussed above.

Further, Applicants submit that the Office Action fails to establish how or why one skilled in the art would selectively pick and chose from the features of the cited references to arrive at the combined features of the present claims. Moreover, the cited references do not recognize the advantageous results achieved by the present invention as discussed further below, thus further demonstrating the non-obviousness of the present claims. In accordance with the present invention, Applicants have recognized a combination of features which provides for the gaps in the fiber braid reinforcement to be impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition and therefore, the resin can protect the fiber braid reinforcement from fiber displacement even when the vibration-absorbing tube is used in a curved state and the

bellows can maintain high durability for long period of time. See for example page 14 of the present specification.

Additionally, a further advantageous feature of one or more examples of the invention can be shown from the Table attached to the present amendment. As shown in Table I, it is clear from the results of comparison sample 5 to sample 3 in the pressure resistance test (0 to 21 Mpa). Namely, sample 5 of the vibration-absorbing tube including a fiber braid reinforcement impregnated with rubber according to an example of the invention, was more than 100,000 times highly improved in pressure resistance between 0 to 21 Mpa. On the other hand, sample 3 including a fiber braid reinforcement not impregnated with rubber was only 30,000 times in pressure resistance between the same.

Further, the applied art does not teach or suggest that the buffer material covers an outer face of the bellows from the bottom of the trough to a height below the height of the ridge, as recited in new Claim 29. Instead, Yukinobu discusses, as acknowledged on page 2 of the Office Action, that the buffer material 2 is extruded over the tube so that the dent part (troughs) of the bellows are filled thoroughly as shown in Figs. 1-2. There is no suggestion nor would one of skill in the art be motivated to modify Yukinobu to arrive at the features of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

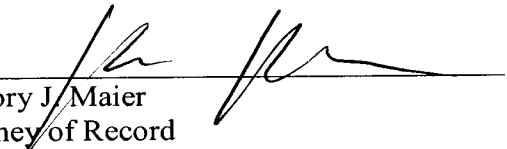
Respectfully submitted,

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